

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 133184 TOSEC 060026
ORIGIN AF-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY FLASH
INFO AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 133184 TOSEC 060026

ATTENTION DAVID ANDERSON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, LI, US

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH LIBERIAN FOREIGN
MINISTER DENNIS AT 2:00 P.M., MAY 25

1. LIBERIAN FOREIGN MINISTER C. CECIL DENNIS IS IN NEW
YORK CITY TO ATTEND THE UN SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT.
THE SECRETARY HAS AGREED TO MEET WITH HIM AT 2:00 P.M.,
TODAY, MAY 25. THE SECRETARY FIRST MET DENNIS JUST OVER
ONE MONTH AGO DURING THE PRESIDENT'S STATE VISIT TO
MONROVIA ON APRIL 3. DENNIS WAS PLEASED WITH THE
DISCUSSIONS THEN WHICH HE CALLED "ENLIGHTENING AND
ENCOURAGING" AND WROTE PRESIDENT CARTER THAT HE BELIEVED
THAT HE AND THE SECRETARY "HAVE ESTABLISHED A GOOD BASIS
FOR A CLOSER WORKING RELATIONSHIP." DENNIS IS HIGHLY
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PAGE 02 STATE 133184 TOSEC 060026

SENSITIVE ABOUT LIBERIA'S "SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP" WITH
THE U.S. AND STRONGLY FEELS THAT CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN
US SHOULD BE REGULAR AND CONTINUING.

2. DENNIS IS LIKELY TO RAISE THE FOLLOWING:

3. ISSUE: THE SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT (SSOD).

ACCORDING TO OUR EMBASSY DENNIS IS LIKELY TO USE HIS INFLUENCE WITHIN THE AFRICAN AND NON-ALIGNED GROUP IN BEHALF OF U.S. POSITIONS REGARDING DISARMAMENT AND OTHER

MATTERS, IF ADEQUATELY CONSULTED AND ENCOURAGED. IT MAY WELL BE FRUITFUL TO RAISE OUR STANDARD POSITIONS AND URGE LIBERIAN SUPPORT.

4. U.S. DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE: THE LIBERIANS REGARD THE PRESIDENT'S TRIP TO LIBERIA AS A SUCCESSFUL DEMONSTRATION OF THE CLOSE TIES EXISTING BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. HOWEVER, AT THE TIME OF THE VISIT PRESIDENT TOLBERT GAVE PRESIDENT CARTER A 29-PAGE MEMORANDUM ENTITLED "BRIEFING NOTES AND PROPOSALS" WHICH LISTED POSSIBLE AREAS FOR U.S. ASSISTANCE. IT APPEARS LIKELY THAT WE CAN BE HELPFUL IN SEVERAL AREAS, BUT OUR DRAFT RESPONSE IS STILL BEING STUDIED AT THE NSC.

-- WE ARE CURRENTLY STUDYING WITH GREAT INTEREST THE PROPOSALS GIVEN OUR PRESIDENT ON DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER ASSISTANCE.

-- WHILE OUR EXPERTS ARE STILL DRAWING UP A RESPONSE, I KNOW WE CAN BE FORTHCOMING IN A NUMBER OF AREAS.

5. THE 1979 OAU CONVENTION: LIBERIA WILL BE THE HOST
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PAGE 03 STATE 133184 TOSEC 060026

COUNTRY FOR THE 1979 OAU CHIEFS OF STATE CONVENTION WHICH WILL MEET IN MONROVIA THAT SUMMER. THE LIBERIANS ARE ALREADY DEEPLY CONCERNED THAT THE CAPITAL EXPENDITURES REQUIRED TO PUT ON SUCH AN EXTRAVANGANZA MAY SERIOUSLY STRAIN THE NATIONAL ECONOMY, AND THEY HAVE REQUESTED HELP FROM MAJOR FOREIGN DONORS. THE GERMANS AND THE CHINESE IN PARTICULAR HAVE PROVED WILLING TO ASSIST SUBSTANTIALLY. WE, HOWEVER, ARE HAMSTRUNG BY CURRENT GUIDELINES ON AID ASSISTANCE WHICH PRECLUDE OUR PARTICIPATION IN INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS AND DIRECT OUR EFFORTS TOWARD HELPING THE RURAL POOR. THE EMBASSY IN MONROVIA HAS SUGGESTED SEVERAL WAYS IN WHICH WE MIGHT HELP THE LIBERIANS, INCLUDING SAFETY EQUIPMENT FOR THE AIRPORT. IF RAISED:

-- AS YOU KNOW, CURRENT U.S. LEGISLATION PROHIBITS US FROM ASSISTING YOU ON MANY OF THE PROJECTS FOR THE UPCOMING OAU CONFERENCE IN MONROVIA.

-- OUR EMBASSY IN MONROVIA HAS SUGGESTED SEVERAL POSSIBLE IDEAS OF WHAT WE MIGHT DO, AND SHOULD ANY OF THEM PROVE FEASIBLE WE WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH YOUR

OFFICIALS IN MONROVIA REGARDING THEM.

6. AFRICAN ISSUES: DENNIS WILL PROBABLY ASK FOR THE
SECRETARY'S VIEWS ON CURRENT AFRICAN CONFLICTS,

PARTICULARLY ZAIRE. PRESIDENT TOLBERT APPRECIATED OUR
BRIEFING ON THE ISSUE.U.S. PLANES SUPPORTED THE SHABA
II OPERATION STAGED THROUGH ROBERTSFIELD.

-- OUTLINE U.S. POSITION ON ZAIRE, SOUTHERN AFRICA
AND THE HORN.

CHRISTOPHER

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